

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 and 18-21 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 over Buckley et al. The independent claims 1, 10 and 14 have been amended to emphasize that the output controller is associated with an output device or output system and receives the intermediate output data from an information apparatus that is distinct from the output controller. The independent claims have further been amended to specify that the image processing operation utilizes, at least partly, parameters related to the output device or the output system.

Buckley et al discloses a general purpose computer which generates print data employing a plurality of printer drivers stored in the printer driver memory portion 134 of the computer memory 130. Buckley et al discloses that the rendering options to be used to render a particular document are selected by the user by selecting a virtual printer appropriate to the desired rendering options. See column 2, lines 40-45.

Buckley et al suggests that if content to be rendered is composed of several distinct image objects (graphics, text and photographic images, for example), the user may select a set of rendering options independently for each object type. Applicant's FIG. 1A corresponds broadly to the disclosure of Buckley et al, except that FIG. 1A does not explicitly address multiple image object types.

In accordance with applicant's independent claims, the intermediate output data that is provided by the information apparatus includes image data, and the image data is retrieved from the intermediate output data. Further, the image processing operation utilizes parameters related to the output device or output system with which the output controller is associated.

Buckley et al discloses that the printer driver "converts the currently opened document into printer data and printer control commands and outputs the printer data and printer control commands...to the currently selected meta printer 300 or 310." See column 7, lines 13-20. Thus, Buckley et al does not disclose

or suggest that the general purpose computer 100 supplies intermediate output data to the printer server 200 or that any component of the printer server 200 or printers 300, 310 retrieves image data from intermediate output data.

In view of the foregoing, applicant submits that the invention as disclosed in claims 1, 10 and 14 is not disclosed or suggested by Buckley et al. Further, HiKIS, cited against claim 17, does not supply the deficiency in the disclosure of Buckley et al. Accordingly, claims 1, 10 and 14 are patentable and it follows that the dependent claims also are patentable.

Respectfully submitted,



John Smith-Hill
Reg. No. 27,730

SMITH-HILL & BEDELL, P.C.
16100 N.W. Cornell Road, Suite 220
Beaverton, Oregon 97006

Tel. (503) 574-3100
Fax (503) 574-3197
Docket: FLEX 2399

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, on the 4th day of April, 2006.

